

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 IO-03 PM-03 SP-02

L-01 PRS-01 SAM-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

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O R 101445Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5308

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1184

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, AO, LT

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN RECOGNITION

REF: STATE 265503

1. CHARGE CALLED ON PERMANENT SECRETARY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEFAKO TODAY TO DISCUSS ANGOLAN SITUATION AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. ALSO PRESENT WAS AF DESK OFFICER THAMAE.

2. SEFAKO SAID THAT BASED ON WHAT INFORMATION GOL HAD BEEN ABLE TO GATHER, HE HAD NO REASON TO DISAGREE WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION AND HE APPRECIATED OUR SHARING OUR VIEWS WITH LESOTHO. HE SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR GOL TO MAKE A DECISION AS TO RECOGNITION OF ANY OF CONTENDING MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA. HE SAID MINISTER OF JUSTICE MOLAPO, WHO WAS LESOTHO'S REPRESENTATIVE ON OAU CONCILIATION COMMISSION, HAD JUST RETURNED TO LESOTHO AND WOULD BE FILING HIS REPORT WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. GOL WAS ALSO IN TOUCH WITH ITS HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NAIROBI END WOULD BE CONSULTING WITH INDIVIDUAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON ISSUE OF ANGOLA. SEFAKO SAID ANY GOL DECISION WOULD BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY AN AFRICAN CONSENSUS IF ONE DEVELOPED, THAT LESOTHO
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CONSIDERED MAINTENANCE OF AFRICAN SOLIDARITY TO BE OF PRIME

IMPORTANCE IN MATTER, BUT THAT IT WAS STILL DIFFICULT TO SEE WHETHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO FORM A UNIFIED POSITION. HE SAID HE COULD NOT GIVE US A MORE DEFINITE RESPONSE UNTIL GOL HAD DELIBERATED FURTHER BUT HE WOULD ADVISE US WHEN LESOTHO REACHED A DECISION.

3. IN INTERESTING ASIDE, THAMAE SAID IN HIS OPINION RUSSIANS WERE SO COMMITTED TO MPLA THAT THEY WOULD ACT WITHOUT REGARD TO VIEWS OF OAU.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GOL WILL NOT ACT UNILATERALLY OR HASTILY AND HAS NOT DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. IF MOVE TO RECOGNIZE MPLA GAINS MOMENTUM AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES, LESOTHO WILL PROBABLY BE CAUGHT UP IN IT. WITHIN OAU COUNCILS, LESOTHO'S POSITION WILL PROBABLY BE DETERMINED TO CERTAIN DEGREE BY RELATIVE SUCCESSES OF CONTENDING PARTIES IN ANGOLA. HAUGHT

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